



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO SENTENCED IN I-70 STOP

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Guillermo Ponce DeLeon**, 32, Aurora, Colorado, and **Gerardo Ponce DeLeon aka Andres Montoya Ramos**, 37, Chihuahua, Mexico, were each sentenced on July 15, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson. Guillermo Ponce DeLeon was sentenced to **78 months** in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release. Gerardo Ponce DeLeon aka Andres Montoya Ramos was sentenced to **57 months** in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.

Melgren said that Guillermo Ponce DeLeon entered a guilty plea on April 14, 2003, and Gerardo Ponce DeLeon aka Andres Montoya Ramos entered a guilty plea on April 7, 2003, each to one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 4 kilograms (approximately 8.8 pounds) of cocaine.

Melgren stated that Guillermo Ponce DeLeon and Gerardo Ponce DeLeon aka Andres Montoya Ramos each admitted at his plea that on January 3, 2003, they were stopped for a traffic violation by the Kansas Highway Patrol while traveling east-bound on I-70 in Geary County, Kansas. The trooper searched their van and found approximately 8.8 pounds of cocaine hidden behind an interior panel. Guillermo and Gerardo admitted that they intended to distribute the cocaine.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.